

The Doctrines of Grace #2
Unconditional Election
Jn 17:1-2

Introduction:

1. Last week we studied Total Depravity
 - a. Men are sinners
 - b. Sin has permeated all we are and all we do
 - c. Left to themselves, lost sinners don't seek God, don't want His truth, and there is none that doeth good.
 - d. Man is dead in sin and needs to be made alive or quickened
2. Man is lost in sin and unable to come to the Lord so if anyone is to be saved, then God Himself must choose to save that person
 - a. God must seek the lost sinner
 - b. He must quicken that lost sinner so that he will be able to believe
3. These are difficult doctrines and hard on the flesh, but true nonetheless
4. When Jesus preached on divine election, people left Him
5. If you are more than just a casual Bible reader, then you must admit that there is more to salvation than meets the eye
6. From the time I was saved I have heard these doctrines preached /taught
 - a. I did not have to struggle to accept these doctrines
 - b. I don't understand how it all works
 - c. I came to the conclusion some years ago that there are some things in the Bible that I am not going to fully understand.
 - d. I am finite - God infinite. If I understood it all, I'd be as smart as God
7. Baptists have historically embraced these doctrines and it is not until the last 50-75 years that even Baptists have left these doctrines
8. Carl Morton had a conference on the Doctrines of Grace
 - a. A lady came to Bro. Hensley and told him that another preacher in Cincinnati was going to go on the radio and refute all five points.
 - b. Bro. Hensley told the lady to watch the ministry of that radio preacher and see what God did. God wiped him out
9. "Grace in a person's life is like a cow's tail. The longer it grows the closer it gets to the ground." The more you understand about God's grace the more humble you will get
10. Some say, "If I believed that election stuff, I wouldn't do anything."
 - a. That's them – that's not me
 - b. Believing what I believe, I can't fail.
 - c. God is doing what He wants to do.

I. The Examination of Election

A. What Election Is

1. Elections means “choosing out” or “picking out”
2. Unconditional = “without conditions or prerequisites”
3. Unconditional election means that God, in eternity past, chose or picked out of mankind those whom He would save (by means of Christ’s death and the work of the Holy Spirit) in His own just, wise and gracious purpose.

B. What Election is Not

1. Election is not man choosing God
 - a) *God casts a vote – the devil casts a vote and you have the deciding vote*
 - b) *The problem is that man, left to himself, cannot choose God*
 - c) *Adam hid from God*
2. Election is not God choosing man at his salvation
 - a) *God doesn’t choose in time, He chose in eternity*
Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:
 - b) *He chose before the foundation of the world*
3. Election doesn’t mean that God chose all without exception
 - a) *A lost person who dies in sin is someone God could not save.*
 - b) *Noel Smith of Springfield, MO said, “What is hell?... I tell you and I say with profound reverence, hell is a ghastly monument to the failure of the triune God to save the multitudes who are there. I say it reverently, I say it with every nerve in my body tense: sinners go to hell because God almighty Himself could not save them! He did all He could. He failed.” – Defender Magazine*
 - c) *God does not fail – Isa 42:4*
4 He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.
 - d) *God does what He pleases – Ps 115:3*
3 But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.
4. Election is not based on foreseen works or repentance
 - a) *God does not look down through the corridors of time and see that we trust Christ and then choose us*
 - b) *That makes His choice dependent on our choice*
5. Election is not God electing to save all who believe on Jesus
 - a) *God did not elect a plan – He elected persons*
 - b) *God hath chosen **you** to salvation – 2Thess 2:13*

II. The Evidence for Election

A. In the Word of God

1. The words “elect”, “election”, “elected” etc appear 27x
 - a) *Ro 8:33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.*
 - b) *Lu 18:7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?*
 - c) *Tit 1:1 Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;*
 - d) *Spurgeon – “If there is an “elect” then there must be an “election”*
2. Jesus preached election
 - a) *Joh 5:21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.*
 - b) *Joh 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*
 - c) *Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*
 - d) *Joh 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*
 - e) *Joh 17:2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.*
 - f) *Joh 17:6 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.*
3. Luke taught election – Acts 13:48
48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.
4. Paul taught election
 - a) *2Th 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: 14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
 - b) *Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,*

- c) *Ro 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.*
- d) *Ro 9:13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. 14 What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. 15 For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.*
- e) *Ro 9:20 Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? 21 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?*

B. In the Ways of God

1. God called Abel the younger son, not Cain the older
2. Ham and Japheth are ignored while Shem the youngest is selected for the line of Christ
3. God chose Abram in Ur of the Chaldees
4. God chose the nation of Israel 1- Deut 7:6-8
5. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead but no one else
6. Jesus healed the infirm man while multitudes lay there in Jn 5:3-5
7. Rom 9:6-26 – Esau and Jacob
8. Why are some born rich and some poor, some deformed or sickly and others healthy, some born with brown skin and others with white skin, some handsome or beautiful and others common or plain?

III. The Effect of Election

A. It Magnifies the Sovereignty of God

1. It gives the glory to God and not to man
2. We cannot glory in our trusting Christ as Savior
3. Whenever Bro. Walker preached a revival he always preached one message on election and multitudes were saved
4. God honors the preaching of His Word

B. It Sets Forth God as He Is

1. Not a weak God that can be kicked around
2. It magnifies God's greatness
3. God is not trying to save the world

C. It Magnifies the Grace of God

1. Eph 1:4-6 - To the praise of the glory of His grace
4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:
5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.
2. It puts man in his rightful place

D. It Makes Salvation Sure

1. God saves whom He will save
2. God saves when He is ready

IV. The Objections to Election

A. It Seems Unfair

1. Who are we to say that God is unholy because He chooses a people for His name
2. A governor who pardons a prisoner does not harm the others in the prison because he did not pardon them
3. If a wealthy family went to an orphanage and decided to adopt a child who had no family we would consider it an act of charity. If they would choose a child who is retarded or deformed we would consider that man and woman saintly and worthy of praise. They were in no way obligated to choose any of the children. They did not have to share their wealth, goodness, name and home. They did so because it pleased them to do so. Such a man / woman are honored and admired. But when God does this, people call Him unfair. We were all deformed rebels corrupted by sin with no righteousness or merit before God. Yet as a loving Father, in an act of sovereign grace He chose some unto salvation. He chose to share His wealth, His goodness, and His home. How can people call that unfair.

B. God Elects Some to Hell

1. Election is to salvation
2. All are going to hell anyway
3. Election means that some are going to heaven

C. Election Makes God a Respector of Persons

1. God does not choose on the basis of race or color etc
2. Making a difference between the equally deserving is respecting persons
3. Making a difference in wholly undeserving persons is not respecting

persons

4. I believe “whosoever will.” Someone said, “When we get to heaven we will go through the door and above it says “whosoever will.” When we get through the door and look back up over the door it will say, “chosen before the foundation of the world.”

Conclusion:

1. Isn't it great what God has done for us?
 - a. He saved us
 - b. We love Him because He first loved us.
2. Don't be a hardshell
 - a. Have balance in this area
 - b. God is the only one who can save but we must take the gospel to the lost.
3. C.D. Cole said it best. “Those who go to hell will have no one to blame but themselves, and those who go to heaven will have no one to praise but God.”
4. Spurgeon said, “Even Arminians, when they pray for the lost pray the Calvinist's prayer – “Lord, save sinners.”
5. C.H. Spurgeon was once preaching to a crowd of Methodists who were in opposition to the doctrine of election. He said, “This brings me to the doctrine of election.” Expressions of disapproval became evident, whereupon, Mr. Spurgeon told the audience that they did believe the doctrine of election, and that he would make them shout “Hallelujah” over it. He asked his audience if there were any difference between them and the wicked, such as drunkards, harlots and blasphemers. They all united in saying that there was a difference and that whoever made the difference should have the glory for it. “Did you make the difference?” To this question all said, “No.” He then told them that the Lord made the difference and asked them if they thought it was wrong for Him to make a difference between them and the others. They agreed that it was not wrong. Spurgeon then concluded by saying, “Very well then, if it was not wrong for God to make the difference, it was not wrong for Him to purpose to make it, and that is the doctrine of election.” They cried “Hallelujah,” just as the preacher said that they would.

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